Claims:

1. A system for limiting a plurality of camera functions in a mobile communication terminal equipped with a camera, comprising:

at least one operation-limited area, wherein the mobile communication terminal is allowed to determine whether the mobile communication terminal is located within an operation-limited area;

a memory storing camera-function limitation data for each of the at least one operation-limited area, the camera-function limitation data indicating selective inhibition of the plurality of camera functions; and

a camera function controller for selectively inhibiting the plurality of camera functions depending on camera-function limitation data corresponding to an operation-limited area in which the mobile communication terminal is located.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the camera function controller releases an inhibited camera function when a predetermined condition is satisfied.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein each of the at least one operation-limited area is substantially defined

by radio propagation of a camera-function limiting signal broadcast by a radio station installed at a predetermined location, the camera-function limiting signal including the camera-function limitation data,

wherein the mobile communication terminal comprises a radio receiver for receiving the camera-function limiting signal from the radio station.

4. The system according to claim 3, further comprising:

an emergency communication detector for detecting occurrence of an emergency communication to inform the camera function controller of the occurrence of the emergency communication,

wherein, when informed of the occurrence of the emergency communication in a case of inhibition of a predetermined camera function, the camera function controller releases the inhibition of the predetermined camera function.

5. The system according to claim 4, wherein the predetermined camera function is a video telephone function.

6. The system according to claim 3, further comprising:

a face image memory for previously registering a face image of each authorized user,

wherein, when an input image picked up by the camera matches a face image registered in the face image memory

in a case of inhibition of a predetermined camera function, the camera function controller releases the inhibition of the predetermined camera function.

7. The system according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined camera function is a video telephone function.

8. The system according to claim 3, further comprising:

an emergency communication detector for detecting occurrence of an emergency communication to inform the camera function controller of the occurrence of the emergency communication; and

a face image memory for previously registering a face image of each authorized user,

wherein, in one of cases where the camera function controller is informed of the occurrence of the emergency communication in a case of inhibition of a predetermined camera function and where an input image picked up by the camera matches a face image registered in the face image memory in a case of inhibition of the predetermined camera function, the camera function controller releases the inhibition of the predetermined camera function.

9. The system according to claim 8, wherein the predetermined camera function is a video telephone function.

10. The system according to claim 3, wherein the radio station broadcasts the camera-function limiting signal in a short-range radio communication scheme, which is different from a radio communication scheme of the mobile communication terminal.

11. The system according to claim 1, wherein each of the at least one operation-limited area is determined by the mobile communication terminal,

wherein the mobile communication terminal comprises:

a location detector for detecting a location of the mobile communication terminal;

an operation-limited area memory storing operation-limited area location data; and

an area decision section for searching the operation-limited area memory for a detected location of the mobile communication terminal to determine whether the mobile communication terminal is located within an operation-limited area.

12. The system according to claim 11, further comprising:

an emergency communication detector for detecting occurrence of an emergency communication to inform the camera function controller of the occurrence of the emergency

communication,

wherein, when informed of the occurrence of the emergency communication in a case of inhibition of a predetermined camera function, the camera function controller releases the inhibition of the predetermined camera function.

13. The system according to claim 12, wherein the predetermined camera function is a video telephone function.

14. The system according to claim 11, further comprising:

a face image memory for previously registering a face image of each authorized user,

wherein, when an input image picked up by the camera matches a face image registered in the face image memory in a case of inhibition of a predetermined camera function, the camera function controller releases the inhibition of the predetermined camera function.

15. The system according to claim 14, wherein the predetermined camera function is a video telephone function.

16. The system according to claim 11, further comprising:

an emergency communication detector for detecting occurrence of an emergency communication to inform the camera

function controller of the occurrence of the emergency communication; and

a face image memory for previously registering a face image of each authorized user,

wherein, in one of cases where the camera function controller is informed of the occurrence of the emergency communication in a case of inhibition of a predetermined camera function and where an input image picked up by the camera matches a face image registered in the face image memory in a case of inhibition of the predetermined camera function, the camera function controller releases the inhibition of the predetermined camera function.

17. The system according to claim 16, wherein the predetermined camera function is a video telephone function.

18. The system according to claim 11, wherein the location detector is a GPS positioning section for receiving global positioning system (GPS) signals to detect the location of the mobile communication terminal.

19. The system according to claim 1, wherein the camera functions include image pickup function, auto-focusing and zooming function, strobe function, shutter-sound generating function, and video telephone function.

20. A method for limiting a plurality of camera functions in a mobile communication terminal equipped with a camera, comprising:

preparing at least one operation-limited area, wherein the mobile communication terminal is allowed to determine whether the mobile communication terminal is located within an operation-limited area;

storing camera-function limitation data for each of the at least one operation-limited area, the camera-function limitation data indicating selective inhibition of the plurality of camera functions; and

selectively inhibiting the plurality of camera functions depending on camera-function limitation data corresponding to an operation-limited area in which the mobile communication terminal is located.

21. The method according to claim 20, further comprising:

releasing an inhibited camera function when a predetermined condition is satisfied.

22. The method according to claim 20, wherein each of the at least one operation-limited area is substantially defined by the mobile communication terminal receiving a camera-function limiting signal from a radio station, the camera-function limiting signal including the camera-function

limitation data.

23. The method according to claim 20, wherein each of the at least one operation-limited area is determined by the mobile communication terminal

detecting a location of the mobile communication terminal;

storing operation-limited area location data; and

searching the operation-limited area memory for a detected location of the mobile communication terminal to determine whether the mobile communication terminal is located within an operation-limited area.

24. A mobile communication terminal which is equipped with a camera and has a plurality of camera functions, comprising:

a radio receiver for receiving a camera-function limiting signal from a radio station installed at a predetermined location;

a signal decoder for decoding the camera-function limiting signal to produce camera-function limitation data indicating selective inhibition of the plurality of camera functions; and

a camera function controller for selectively inhibiting the plurality of camera functions depending on camera-function limitation data.

25. The mobile communication terminal according to claim 24, wherein the camera function controller releases an inhibited camera function when a predetermined condition is satisfied.

26. The mobile communication terminal according to claim 24, further comprising:

an emergency communication detector for detecting occurrence of an emergency communication to inform the camera function controller of the occurrence of the emergency communication,

wherein, when informed of the occurrence of the emergency communication in a case of inhibition of a predetermined camera function, the camera function controller releases the inhibition of the predetermined camera function.

27. The mobile communication terminal according to claim 26, wherein the predetermined camera function is a video telephone function.

28. The mobile communication terminal according to claim 24, further comprising:

a face image memory for previously registering a face image of each authorized user,

wherein, when an input image picked up by the camera matches a face image registered in the face image memory

in a case of inhibition of a predetermined camera function, the camera function controller releases the inhibition of the predetermined camera function.

29. The mobile communication terminal according to claim 28, wherein the predetermined camera function is a video telephone function.

30. The mobile communication terminal according to claim 24, further comprising:

an emergency communication detector for detecting occurrence of an emergency communication to inform the camera function controller of the occurrence of the emergency communication; and

a face image memory for previously registering a face image of each authorized user,

wherein, in one of cases where the camera function controller is informed of the occurrence of the emergency communication in a case of inhibition of a predetermined camera function and where an input image picked up by the camera matches a face image registered in the face image memory in a case of inhibition of the predetermined camera function, the camera function controller releases the inhibition of the predetermined camera function.

31. The mobile communication terminal according to

claim 30, wherein the predetermined camera function is a video telephone function.

32. The mobile communication terminal according to claim 24, wherein the radio station transmits the camera-function limiting signal in a short-range radio communication scheme, which is different from a radio communication scheme of the mobile communication terminal.

33. A mobile communication terminal which is equipped with a camera and has a plurality of camera functions, comprising:

a location detector for detecting a location of the mobile communication terminal;

a memory storing camera-function limitation data for each of at least one operation-limited area, wherein the camera-function limitation data indicates selective inhibition of the plurality of camera functions;

an area decision section for searching the operation-limited area memory for a detected location of the mobile communication terminal to determine whether the mobile communication terminal is located within an operation-limited area; and

a camera function controller for selectively inhibiting the plurality of camera functions depending on camera-function limitation data corresponding to a found

operation-limited area.

34. The mobile communication terminal according to claim 33, wherein the camera function controller releases an inhibited camera function when a predetermined condition is satisfied.

35. The mobile communication terminal according to claim 33, further comprising:

an emergency communication detector for detecting occurrence of an emergency communication to inform the camera function controller of the occurrence of the emergency communication,

wherein, when informed of the occurrence of the emergency communication in a case of inhibition of a predetermined camera function, the camera function controller releases the inhibition of the predetermined camera function.

36. The mobile communication terminal according to claim 35, wherein the predetermined camera function is a video telephone function.

37. The mobile communication terminal according to claim 33, further comprising:

a face image memory for previously registering a face image of each authorized user,

wherein, when an input image picked up by the camera matches a face image registered in the face image memory in a case of inhibition of a predetermined camera function, the camera function controller releases the inhibition of the predetermined camera function.

38. The mobile communication terminal according to claim 37, wherein the predetermined camera function is a video telephone function.

39. The mobile communication terminal according to claim 33, further comprising:

an emergency communication detector for detecting occurrence of an emergency communication to inform the camera function controller of the occurrence of the emergency communication; and

a face image memory for previously registering a face image of each authorized user,

wherein, in one of cases where the camera function controller is informed of the occurrence of the emergency communication in a case of inhibition of a predetermined camera function and where an input image picked up by the camera matches a face image registered in the face image memory in a case of inhibition of the predetermined camera function, the camera function controller releases the inhibition of the predetermined camera function.

40. The mobile communication terminal according to claim 39, wherein the predetermined camera function is a video telephone function.

41. The mobile communication terminal according to claim 33, wherein the location detector is a GPS positioning section for receiving global positioning system (GPS) signals to detect the location of the mobile communication terminal.